(रबी विपणन मौसम 1998-99 के दौरान विपणित) के दौरान देश में गेहूं उत्पादन की स्थिति की समीक्षा करने के बाद सरकार ने 20 लाख टन तक गेहूं का आयात करने का निर्णय लिया। सरकार द्वारा दिए गए प्राधिकार के प्रति 1998-99 के दौरान राज्य व्यापार निगम ने आस्ट्रेलिया से 15 लाख टन गेहूं के ठेके किए हैं। फिलहाल सरकार ने प्राधिकृत शेष 5 लाख टन मात्रा का आयात नहीं करने का निर्णय लिया है।

सुपर बाजार और केन्द्रीय भण्डार के अध्यक्षों को आवास प्रदान के लिए नियम

2007. **श्री चुन्नी लाल चौधरी:** क्या खाद्य और उपभोक्ता मामले मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सुपर बाजार और केन्द्रीय भण्डार आदि जैसे संगठनों के अध्यक्षों को आवास प्रदान करने के लिए कोई मापदण्ड है; और

(ख) वे किस श्रेणी का आवास पाने के लिए हकदार हैं और सरकार किराए के रूप में कितनी राशि का भार उठा सकती है?

रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्री तथा खाद्य मंत्री (सरदार सुरजीत सिंह बरनाला): (क) जी, नहीं।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Supply of Sugar through PDS

2008. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that supply of sugar through PDS will run out from mid-July this year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) Government's plan to revive it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) to (c) No, Sir. With the carry over stocks of the last season 1996-97 and the estimated production of sugar during the current sugar season 1997-98, the Central Government have already made allocations of levy sugar for Public Distribution System till August, 1998.

Adverse effects of Vanaspati import from Nepal

2009. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Vanaspati units in Eastern region are adversely affected on account of import of Vanaspati from Nepal under Indo-Nepal Treaty, as the imported Vanaspati is much cheaper in comparison with the indigenous production; and

(b) whether Government propose to amend the said Treaty so as to save the domestic industry; and if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter is being taken up with the Government of Nepal in the contest of the provisions of the Treaty.

Measures for Controlling Prices of Essential Commodities

2010. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the prices of pulses, edible oils and other essential commodities have increased manifold since the past few months:

(b) if so, whether Government have totally failed to check the prices of essential commodities; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and further action Government propose to take to bring down the prices of essential commodities?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) A statement showing the percentage variation in the wholesale price index of pulses, edible oils and certain other essential commodities for the last three months is enclosed. (*See* below).

(b) and (c) The Government has accorded the highest priority to the control of prices of essential commodities. Apart from certain long term measures to increase the production of essential goods, imports under Open Gen-

eral Licence (OGL) of items which are in short supply like edible oils and pulses are being permitted in order to augment the total availability of these items. Government has decided to import 1.5 million tonnes of wheat through State Trading Corporation to augment its availability. Some of the essential commodities like rice, wheat, sugar imported palmolein and kerosene are also being supplied through the Public Distribution System and Cooperative Stores at below market prices. Stringent actions are being taken against hoarders and black marketeers and others indulging in unfair trade practices under the Essential Commodities Act and Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act etc. by the State/UT Governments.

Statement

Percentage variation in WPI of essential commodities as on 13.6.98 over different periods

Percentage variation (as on 13.6.98)

Commodity	Over 1 month 13.6.98/16.5.98	over 3 months 13.6.98/14.3.98
Pulses (Sub-group)	-3.6	-5.5
Gram	-8.8	-24.8
Arhar	-2.4	10.7
Moong	0.5	-1.6
Masur	-2.2	5.9
Urad	-1.0	2.4
Edible oils (Sub-group)	3.3	-6.1
Vanaspati	Steady	0.3
Groundnut oil	6.3	11.1
Mustard oil	6.7	18.0
Coconut oil	0.3	-7.3
Rice	1.4	2.9
Wheat	0.9	-3.1
Vegetables (Sub-group)	2.7	64.0
Potatoes	4.1	126.7
Onions	1.8	-14.4
Sugar	Steady	0.9
Salt	Steady	0.7
Tea	-5.9	-1.6

Impact of fall in Sugar Production

2011. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH SURYA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to decrease in sugar production this year and also due to increase in per-capita allowance of sugar through PDS, pressure on sguar sellers has increased;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have prepared a plan of action to make up this shortage; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) to (d) The production of sugar during the current sugar season 1997-98 is marginally less as compared to the last sugar season. There has been no change in per capita allocation of sugar under Public Distribution System. The releases of free sale sugar in the open market have been higher during the current season in comparision to the last season 1996-97. With the Carry over stocks of the last season and the estimated production of sugar during the current sugar season 1997-98, the Central Government would be able to meet the domestic consumption requirement of sugar in the country.

उपभोक्ता संरक्षण अधिनियम में संशोधन

2812. श्री राम गोपाल यादव: क्या खाद्य और उपभोक्ता मामले मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार मौजूदा उपभोक्ता संरक्षण अधिनियम में संशोधन करने का विचार कर रही है अथवा विचार करेगी,

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है, और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं और उपभोक्ताओं को न्याय दिलाने के लिए उपभोक्ता मंचों को सरकार किस तरह प्रभावकारी बनाएगी?

रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्री तथा खाद्य मंत्री (सरदार सुरजीत सिंह बरनाला): (क) से (ग) केन्द्रीय सरकार ने उपभोक्ता संरक्षण अधिनियम, 1986 को और अधिक